



# ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN

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David Shmid  
Regional Forester  
U.S. Forest Service  
Alaska Region  
709 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-8775

February 28, 2019

RE: Roadless Rule DEIS Comments

Dear Mr. Schmid,

The Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250). It is in the OVK's mission to promote, preserve and protect Haida identity and values, these values are protected through protection of and access to natural, indigenous resources and land.

The OVK became a cooperating agency with the United States Forest Service in January 2018. The OVK received a draft copy of the Roadless Rule DEIS on February 13, 2019 and finished reviewing it on February 27, 2019. Attached to this letter are OVK's comments tracked in the draft Roadless Rule DEIS (changes are made on 2-1, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9 and 2-12).

The OVK recognizes that the United States signed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during the Obama Administration. Please see below the UNDRIP articles that reference the rights of indigenous peoples that support the OVK's comments in the DEIS.

## Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

## Article 20

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

1. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

#### *Article 24*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

#### *Article 25*

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

#### *Article 26*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

#### *Article 31*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the
2. right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

#### *Article 32*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.



If you have any questions and/or comments, please contact the OVK's DEIS Reviewer, Marina Anderson, via cell phone (907-617-9711) or email ([marina@kasaan.org](mailto:marina@kasaan.org)).

Haw'áa

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marina Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marina Anderson, Organized Village of Kasaan DEIS Reviewer